

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please cancel claims 1-7, 12 and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please rewrite claims 8, 9 and 11 as follows.

Please add new claim 14 as follows.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7: (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A mesoporous silica composite material, comprising:
_____ a porous substrate; and
a mesoporous silica deposited on said porous substrate, thereon; said mesoporous silica exhibiting alkaline resistance, having uniform mesopores and a periodic structure, ~~which contains~~ and including a Zr element in the form of a Si-O-Zr bond and wherein the Zr content in the Si-O-Zr bond, represented by $[Zr/(Si + Zr)]_x$ is 0.05 to 20 mole %.

9. (currently amended) A mesoporous silica composite material according to claim 8, wherein said mesoporous silica has one of a particulate form ~~or~~ and a filmy form.

10. (original) A mesoporous silica composite material according to claim 8, wherein the diameters of the mesopores of said mesoporous silica are 1.0 to 3.0 nm and the volume of the mesopores of said mesoporous silica is 0.5 to 1.0 cc/g.

11. (currently amended) A mesoporous silica composite material according to claim 8, wherein said mesoporous silica has an alkali resistance index of larger than 10 in terms of ~~pH~~pH when an alkali resistance test is conducted and evaluation is made based on the peak intensity appearing at $2\theta = 2.5^\circ$ of x-ray diffraction.

12. Claims 12-13: (canceled)

14. (new) A mesoporous silica composite material according to claim 8, wherein said mesoporous silica is formed by mixing, as starting materials, a solution including a surfactant with at least one of a solution and a dispersion including a Si source and a Zr source to form a gel which is then processed to produce said mesoporous silica.